

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PPT-01 SCA-01 VO-03 /029 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH/MPH

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

AF/P-JPOPE

USIA/IBS-RRGRANT (PHONE)

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R 100009Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, NI

SUBJECT: GARBA SAYS NIGERIA WILL ADMIT US JOURNALISTS

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 5 NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA SAID THAT APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WOULD BE GRANTED. HE ADDED THAT NIGERIA HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADMIT JOURNALISTS WHO MIGHT MISINTERPRET EVENTS IN THE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE COUP.

2. ABOVE WAS CARRIED BY VOA FEBRUARY 5 AND 6.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AF/W BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON, EVENING FEBRUARY 5, GARBA SAID A) NIGERIA WOULD GRANT VISAS TO JOURNALISTS WHO APPLY; B) THOSE WILLING TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN NIGERIA WILL BE GIVEN TEMPORARY RESIDENCE VISAS TO GIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEM TIME TO GET ORGANIZED IN LAGOS. THESE WOULD LATER

BE CONVERTED TO RESIDENCE PERMITS. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, GARBA SAID HE KNEW THE NEW YORK TIMES WISHED TO REESTABLISH ITSELF IN LAGOS. HE THOUGHT THE NEW YORK TIMES APPLICANT WAS NOW IN ABIDJAN. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE TIMES CORRESPONDENT REAPPLY THERE. C) HE REPEATED THE JUSTIFICATION FOR DENYING OR DELAYING ACTION ON VISA

APPLICATIONS CITED IN PARA ONE ABOVE.

4. ACTION SUGGESTED:

FOR ACCRA: SUGGEST NYT CORRESPONDENT DARNTON REAPPLY AT NIGERIAN EMBASSY ACCRA.

FOR LAGOS: IF YOU BELIEVE IT HELPFUL, YOU MAY NOTE CHANGE IN POLICY, EXPRESS APPRECIATION, AND REQUEST PROMPT ACTION. CHOICE OF WHETHER, WHEN, AND AT WHAT LEVEL TO MAKE THIS POINT IS LEFT TO YOU, BUT AMBASSADOR MIGHT FIND IT HELPFUL TO RAISE IT WITH GARBA AS PART OF GENERAL ROUNDUP AFTER LATTER'S RETURN FROM U.S.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, POLICIES, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE031890  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TWMSMITH/MPH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760050-0241  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 JUN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GARBA SAYS NIGERIA WILL ADMIT US JOURNALISTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CASC, NI, US, (GARBA, JOSEPH)  
**To:** LAGOS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006